

THE SHORTAGE OF HEALTH PERSONNEL IN PAKISTAN.

By: Anusha Rasheed.

Introduction:

One of the most prominent problems of Pakistan is the shortage of Doctors in both private and government sector. Daily, several patients visit hospitals to receive medical treatment but they have to wait for months for their turn or some just leave the hospital with disappointment due to the lack of Doctors.

Because of Pakistan has a very low doctor to patient ratio. Pakistan has the highest rate of newborn mortality in South Asia with 64 deaths per 1000 births[1]. And one in 89 women in Pakistan dies of pregnancy and childbirth-related complications[2]. Pakistan's maternal mortality rate is 178 deaths per 1,000 live births[3].

Pakistan is the 6th most populous country in the world, therefore Pakistan needs more doctors and proper health services. According to the official documents around 1 lakh 69 thousand and 696 doctors have been registered in Pakistan[4]and according to international standards, it is an obligation that around 2 doctors should be taking care of 1,000 peoples hence Pakistan required 393,500 Doctors for 197 million populations. Pakistan is facing a shortfall of 224,500 doctors.

Health Human Resource	Registered	International Standard	Required for a Population of 170 Million	Shortfall of doctors	Shortfall (%)
Doctors	1,69,696	2 per 1000 population	393,500	224,500	57%

This shortage mainly occurs because more than 80% of women enrol in Pakistan medical colleges and more than 50% of these women doctors don't go to work[5].

They never started their professional career and another main problem is that most of the medical graduates especially men leave Pakistan to work where work is good. In a study at Agha Khan university 900 out of 1,100 graduates left Pakistan after graduation[6].

Pakistan is the third largest exporter of health personnel to developed countries[7]. Most of these doctors go on visa programmes that require these doctors to work in underserved, rural areas.

Suggestion:

This problem can be solved if the government implements the policy, that every doctor after completing their MBBS and house job have to work in government hospitals for almost 1.5 years

Conclusion:

Ayesha Masood¹ Defines that :

Pakistan is the third-largest exporter of health personnel to developed countries. Most of these doctors go on visa programmes that require these doctors to work in under-served, rural areas. Ironical, isn't it? But you won't see these facts being paraded in the media when someone mentions a shortage of health personnel in Pakistan.

You won't see a mention of recovery of fees, or a hefty fine, or quota on men because they are *kamao poot*: the sons who earn (foreign) remittances. Make no mistake, the consequences of attrition of doctors are heart-shattering. Pakistan has one of the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** doctor-to-patient ratios in the world, and (except Afghanistan) the highest maternal mortality rate in the region.

It is this system which shifts the burden of care to the next generation of younger women while men are only expected to bring in the money and pay the bills. We like to revel in the story of doctor brides because it seems familiar to our ears

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because that is what we expect of our women, isn't it? Giving it all up for family, quietly, and happily.[7]

If the government makes that compulsory for all the doctors that they have to work in the government hospitals for 1.5 years and implements that policy strictly, it can really reduce the shortage of doctors and it can ease the life of the patients especially in the rural areas.

End Notes/Webliography.:

1. <https://data.unicef.org/country/pak/>
2. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1364186>
3. https://www.indexmundi.com/pakistan/demographics_profile.html
4. <http://www.pmdc.org.pk/Statistics/tabid/103/Default.aspx>
5. opcite. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1139557>.
6. *ibid.*
7. *ibid.* (see: The Doctors Brides Of Pakistan Fact or Myth)